

Appl. No.: 09/846,424
Amdt. dated 10/11/2005
Reply to Office action of July 12, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A supply chain visibility system operably connected to a network for facilitating creation of a final set of parts for each of a plurality of effectivities and coordinating a supply chain of a plurality of the final set of parts to be assembled into a finished assembly for each of a plurality of effectivities, said parts supplied by a plurality of suppliers and received by at least one recipient, the supply chain visibility system comprising:

a plurality of graphical user interfaces associated with respective suppliers and the recipient and interconnected via the network, each graphical user interface capable of presenting:

a configuration panel operable to display a final configuration agreed to by the suppliers and the at least one recipient, ~~said final configuration defining at least a portion of the finished assembly for which the parts need to be shipped;~~

a template panel operable to display a common set of parts that are common to each of the plurality of effectivities, the common set of parts being those parts necessary to assemble at least a portion of the final configuration of each of the effectivities;

a statement of work panel for each effectivity, each statement of work panel operable to display a the final set of parts of the effectivity derived from the common set of parts, said statement of work panel also operable to display a shipping status of the final set of parts; and

a shipment entry panel configured to receive shipping status data from the suppliers and the recipient, said shipping status data usable to update the shipping status of the final set of parts; and

a processing element comparing the shipping status data received by the shipment entry panel to the shipping status of the final set of parts and updating the shipping status of the parts so that the suppliers and the recipient have an ongoing view of the shipping status of the final set of parts to permit assembly of the ~~finished assembly~~ final set of part, to be planned accordingly.

2. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 1, further comprising an electronic mail dispatch system operable to dispatch electronic mail messages to the suppliers

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and the recipient, the electronic mail messages relating changes and entries submitted to via the graphical user interface.

3. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 1, wherein the statement of work panel includes a plurality of fields displaying the shipping status of the final set of parts, said shipping status including a part number and an effectivity listing of each of the final set of parts.

4. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 3, wherein the shipping status further includes discrepancy information on parts received but found to be inadequate by at least one of the recipient and the receiving supplier.

5. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 3, wherein each graphical user interface further comprises a return part panel configured to receive repair information on parts being returned to one of the suppliers for repair.

6. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 5, wherein said statement of work panel is configured to receive the repair information from the return part panel and to display the repair information.

7. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 3, wherein each graphical user interface further comprises a replacement part panel configured to receive information on parts that need to be replaced.

8. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 7, wherein said statement of work panel is configured to receive the replacement information from the replacement part panel and to display the replacement information.

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9. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 1, wherein each graphical user interface further comprises a shipments in transit panel operable to display the shipping status of parts sent by the suppliers but not yet received.

10. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 9, wherein said shipments in transit panel includes a link to contact information for a carrier to which the parts were submitted for shipment.

11. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 1, wherein each graphical user interface further comprises an estimated completion date panel configured to receive a revised completion date for supply of at least one of the parts and to add the revised completion date to the shipping status of the statement of work panel.

12. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 1, wherein each graphical user interface further comprises a delinquency panel configured to display a list of late parts that have failed to arrive by a due date.

13. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 1, wherein each graphical user interface further comprises a proposed configuration panel operable to display a proposed configuration agreed to by at least one supplier.

14. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 13, wherein each graphical user interface further comprises a configuration release panel operable to change the proposed configuration, add due dates for the proposed configuration and finalize the proposed configuration into the final configuration.

15. (original) The supply chain visibility system of Claim 14, further comprising an electronic mail dispatch system operable to dispatch electronic mail messages relating to the proposed configuration and the final configuration.

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16. (currently amended) A method of facilitating creation of a final set of parts for each of a plurality of effectivities and coordinating a supply chain of a plurality the final set of parts to be assembled into a finished assembly for each of a plurality of effectivities, said parts supplied by a plurality of suppliers and received by at least one recipient, each of the plurality of suppliers and the at least one recipient having a graphical user interface that is connected to and supplied information via a network, said method comprising:

displaying, using a configuration panel of each graphical user interface, a final configuration that ~~defines a portion of the finished assembly for which the parts need to be shipped~~ agreed to by the suppliers and the at least one recipient;

displaying, using a template panel of each graphical user interface, a common set of parts that are common to each of the plurality of effectivities, the common set of parts being those parts necessary to assemble at least a portion of the final configuration of each of the plurality of effectivities;

generating a final set of parts by applying the common set of parts across each of the plurality of effectivities;

displaying, using a statement of work panel of each graphical user interface, a shipping status of the final set of parts; and

receiving shipping status data from the suppliers and the recipient and updating the shipping status of the final set of parts so that the suppliers and the recipient have an ongoing view of the shipping status of the final set of parts to permit assembly of the ~~finished assembly~~ final set of parts to be planned accordingly.

17. (original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising dispatching an electronic mail message to one of the suppliers and the recipient, the electronic mail messages relating changes and entries submitted to via the graphical user interface.

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18. (original) The method of Claim 16, wherein displaying the shipping status includes displaying a part number, a shipping date, and a receipt date of each of the final set of parts.

19. (original) The method of Claim 18, wherein displaying the shipping status further includes displaying discrepancy information on parts received but found to be inadequate by at least one of recipient and the receiving supplier.

20. (original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising receiving repair information on parts being returned to one of the suppliers for repair using a return part panel of each graphical user interface.

21. (original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising receiving, using the statement of work panel, the repair information from the return part panel and displaying the repair information.

22. (original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising receiving, using a replacement part panel of each graphical user interface, information on parts to be replaced.

23. (original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising receiving, using the statement of work panel, the replacement information from the replacement part panel and displaying the replacement information.

24. (original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising displaying, using a shipments in transit panel, the shipping status of parts sent by the suppliers but not yet received.

25. (original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising receiving revised completion dates, using an estimated completion date panel of each graphical user interface, and displaying the revised completion date using the statement of work panel.

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26. (original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising displaying, using a delinquency panel of each graphical user interface, a list of late parts that have not been delivered by a due date.

27. (original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising displaying, using a proposed configuration panel of each graphical user interface, a proposed configuration agreed to by at least one supplier.

28. (original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising changing the proposed configuration, adding due dates for the parts of the proposed configuration, and finalizing the proposed configuration into a final configuration using a configuration release panel of each graphical user interface.

29. (original) The method of Claim 28, further comprising dispatching an electronic mail message relating to the proposed configuration and the final configuration.